

Colrain Energy Committee Meeting Notes, 6/20/18, Meeting # 13

Present: Elizabeth Erickson, Rocky Lively, Therese Fitzsimmons, Al Ladd, Peter Brooks, Bing Waldsmith, Jonathan Lagreze, Lynn DiTullio.

Agenda: New members, meeting time, CCA, Green Community, Coop Solar, Promoting MassSave, Other business.

13-1 Notes of the meeting on May 2nd were accepted.

13-2 New Members, Jon Lagreze and Lynn DiTullio joined us. This is not an official meeting since none of the members have gone to Town hall to be sworn in again.

13-3 Meeting Time, The meeting was switched to the third Thursday at 6 PM at the Highway Garage meeting room.

13-4 Community Electrical Aggregation, Peter reported that the Select Board had signed the contract with Colonial Power Group. They will be writing the aggregation plan for the town to be submitted to DPU for approval to solicit bids to supply the town with power. Our next involvement will be in deciding on the mix of green power to be bid, and helping with the public outreach to explain the process. CPG has just contacted Kevin Fox regarding some legal requirements of the DPU filing.

13-5 Green Community Process, Elizabeth reported that Alysa Larose of FRCOG will help us with the application process. She will help with the data entry process to record the energy use of the town buildings. Bowman Engineering is finishing up their energy audit of the town buildings. The audit will identify energy saving options to be put in the 5 year energy reduction plan, to be submitted with our application to the CEC.

13-6 Cooperative Solar, Elizabeth and Lynn reported on a presentation that they attended by Northeast Solar on the project they have in Wendell. This was described as member owned, on leased land, there are 990 panels on 3 acres, and members do receive SRECs. More research on this promising idea is needed. Perhaps we could have NE Solar come to a meeting here?

13-7 Green Community Goals, What to do with our initial grant? We need to look into where a solar project could be done, and how much area is available for ground or roof solar arrays. This would be for a Town owned project that would benefit the town by reducing the power consumed.

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13-7 Green Community Goals, continued

Future grant money could be used for a coop solar project or helping towns people to pay for MassSave weatherization projects.

13-8 MassSave,

There was little enthusiasm for working with MassSave now, but it could be promising if we could somehow connect with someone at a higher level in the organization. We should talk with others who have looked into these possibilities, including Nancy Hazard and the UMass Energy office.

13-9 Next Meeting, Thursday July 19, 6-8 at the Highway Garage conference room. Members should be sworn in at the Town Hall.